

RECORD OF ACTIONS
by the
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
at its
FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING
held on
April 27, 1961
(Approved by the President on April 29, 1961)

The President presided at this meeting. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Director, Bureau of the Budget, participated in the actions below. The Attorney General; the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force; the Acting Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Director, U. S. Information Agency; the Deputy Under Secretary of State; the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State; the Special Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs and for Science and Technology; the Deputy Counselor, Department of State; the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA); the Adviser to the President for Para-Military Affairs; the Deputy Director (Plans), Central Intelligence Agency; the Military Aide to the President; the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army; the Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force; the Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps; the Special Counsel to the President; the Assistant to the Special Counsel to the President; the U. S. Ambassador to Viet Nam; the Under Secretary of State (Economic Affairs); the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Chief, MAAG, Viet Nam; Colonel Ben C. Liles, USAF, Department of Defense; Captain James B. Cresap, USN, Department of Defense; the Acting Executive Secretary, NSC; and Mr. Bromley Smith, NSC Staff, attended the meeting.

ACTION
NUMBER

SUBJECT

2410. THE SITUATION IN LAOS

Discussed the current situation in Laos and noted the President's view that the Congressional leaders should be promptly briefed on the subject. A meeting with the Congressional leaders was arranged for later in the morning.

ACTION
NUMBERSUBJECT2411. U. S. POLICY IN VIET NAM

- a. Noted and discussed an oral summary by the Deputy Secretary of Defense of a written report distributed at the meeting on the counter-insurgency plan for Viet Nam. It was agreed that members of the Council would study the Defense report and be prepared to consider it at a meeting of the Council on Saturday, April 29, 1961. Any member having a specific objection will be expected to propose alternative language.
- b. Noted the President's directive that the Department of State and the U. S. Information Agency should urgently prepare programs for informing the American public and other nations on the situation in Viet Nam.

2412. EMERGENCY FREEDOM FUND

- a. Noted a recommendation from the Department of State that contingency funds for combatting communism should be sought through regular or supplementary budget requests rather than by asking for an emergency freedom fund. The President reserved decision, pending discussion with the Secretary of State, but expressed his desire that Budget requests should in any event be prepared as promptly as possible.
- b. Noted that the Director of Central Intelligence would review CIA contingency fund requests, having in mind the possibility of requesting additional funds.

2413. U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

- a. Noted the President's view that a decision with respect to trading with Cuba should be deferred pending developments in Cuba during the next week.
- b. Noted the President's request that the Attorney General should prepare recommendations regarding control of Cubans entering or residing in the United States.

ACTION
NUMBERSUBJECT

2413.

U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA (Continued)

- c. Noted the President's request that Assistant Secretary of Defense Nitze, in consultation with appropriate agencies, should complete the Defense study of the military training of Cubans and coordinate it with further proposals from the Department of State with respect to the broader aspects of the Cuban problem.

2414.

PRIVILEGED NATURE OF NSC DISCUSSIONS

Noted the President's directive that discussions in the National Security Council must be kept privileged and the importance the President attaches to keeping the substance of such discussions from becoming public.